

Company Number: 537179

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Whelan Dowling & Associates
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,
Northwood Court,
Santry
D09E438

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

CONTENTS

	Page
Directors and Other Information	3
Directors' Report	4 - 6
Directors' Responsibilities Statement	7
Independent Auditor's Report	8 - 9
Appendix to the Independent Auditor's Report	10
Income Statement	11
Statement of Financial Position	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 18
Supplementary Information on Trading Statement	20 - 22

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors

David Gash (Appointed 23 May 2024)
Elma Beirne (Appointed 23 May 2024)
Moirá Aston (Appointed 23 May 2024)
Clare McGrath
Mary O'Connor
Jennifer Duffy
Graham Russell
David Courell
Darina Barrett
Enda Lynch
Peter O'Brien

Company Secretary

Michelle McCarthy

Company Number

537179

Registered Office and Business Address

Irish Sport HQ
National Sports Campus
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15

Auditors

Whelan Dowling & Associates
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,
Northwood Court,
Santry
D09E438

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2024.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company is to act as a representative association for the National Governing Bodies of Sport and other not for profit sport organisations and agencies in Ireland.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital.

Business Review

The Federation of Irish Sport is the representative organisation for 110 National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) Sport bodies and Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) in Ireland.

The Federation's vision is that sport is recognised and prized as being integral to health, education, and the economy; and is a key factor in creating an inclusive Irish society.

The Federation works on behalf of our members to be their sporting voice in both public and political spheres. We do this through a variety of activities including briefing events, award ceremonies, annual conferences, and ministerial visits. In addition, we champion our members voice on committees and sporting groups including the National Sports Policy Sports Leadership Group, Healthy Ireland Cities & Counties Committee (FIS CEO is chairperson), National Physical Activity plan committee.

The Federation mandate is always to put our members at the forefront of everything we do, and this includes our partnerships. The Federation supports the work of our chosen partners based on the value they add for our members. We activate with and on behalf of our partners to create valuable and lasting connections with our members and continue to enrich and enable the work they do.

At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €238,467 (2023 - €214,865) and liabilities of €129,762 (2023 - €100,622). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(5,538).

Directors and Secretary

The present membership of the board is as listed below. No director has any beneficial interest in the company.

The directors who served throughout the financial year, except as noted, were as follows:

David Gash (Appointed 23 May 2024)
Elma Beirne (Appointed 23 May 2024)
Moirá Aston (Appointed 23 May 2024)
Clare McGrath
Mary O'Connor
Jennifer Duffy
Graham Russell
David Courell
Darina Barrett
Enda Lynch
Peter O'Brien

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Michelle McCarthy.

In accordance with the Constitution, the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Future Developments

The company plans to continue its present activities and current trading levels. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business.

Post Statement of Financial Position Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

Auditors

OSK Audit Limited resigned as auditors during the financial year and the directors appointed Whelan Dowling & Associates, (Chartered Accountants), to fill the vacancy.

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Principal risks and uncertainties

In common with many companies operating in Ireland in this sector the company faces risks and uncertainties such as reduced government funding.

Environmental matters

The company will seek to minimise adverse impacts on the environment from its activities, whilst continuing to address health, safety and economic issues.

Federation of Irish Board - FIS Board Meetings 2024 – Total number of Board meetings eight

Board Director	No of meetings attended
Clare McGrath	7
Graham Russell	5
Enda Lynch	6
Jennifer Duffy	7
David Courell	7
Elma Beirne (Maternity leave from Feb 2024)	1
Darina Barrett	7
David Gash	7
Peter O'Brien	8
Moirá Aston (appointed May 2024)	2

Federation of Irish Board - Subcommittees

FIS Finance Audit and Risk Committee

Members - Tom O Mahony (Independent), Darina Barrett and Peter O'Brien

The FIS Finance Audit and Risk committee met four times in 2024 as a Committee of the Board to support FIS in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to financial stewardship, financial management, financial reporting, risk management and control systems appropriate to the size of the Federation having a staff of less than 5 and expenditure of less than Euro 500,000.

In 2024, the committee under financial reporting, financial planning, and budgeting reviewed the annual financial statements and the accounting policies to support FIS in the fulfilling of its obligations in relation to financial reporting, provided oversight to the annual budgetary planning cycle, provided advice to the Board and, as appropriate, recommend the budget for approval by the Board and reviewed and oversaw, as required, the development of new policies relating to the financial governance and financial management and recommend them for approval. In December 2024 Tom O Mahony resigned from the committee and Andrea Clarke (independent expertise in Finance, Audit and Risk) was appointed to the committee.

FIS Governance Committee

Members – Mary McMorrow, (resigned December 2024), Enda Lynch, David Courell and Peter Cosgrove – Independent.

The committee met four times in 2024 to monitor and review the Federation's compliance with the Governance code for Sport and oversee the annual review of organisational policies and update as required and to review and approve new organisational policies and other relevant documents and make recommendations to the Board on their adoption.

FIS Commercial and Communications Committee

Members - Jill Downey (Chair), Maeve Buckley, Pádraig McKeon, Noel Mooney, Elma Beirne, David Gash Linda Hoey.

The FIS Commercial and Communications Committee met five times in 2024. The role of the Committee is to assist, advise and report to the Board on all relevant Commercial, Communications and Lobbying affairs including;

- To establish the sources and uses of all FIS's past and current income.
- To review all current commercial partnerships and make recommendations to Board.
- To identify, develop and recommend implementing commercial partnerships.

To review, consider and make recommendations on the communication activities of the organisation.

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

DIRECTORS' REPORT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Sport Ireland

The Federation of Irish Sport are grateful for the financial and administrative support of Sport Ireland in relation to ongoing core funding of €145,000 in 2024.

Partners

The Federation has many great partners, and we would also like to thank our partners and supporters for 2023, namely;

- Marsh Insurance
- Ogier Solicitors
- OSK Audit Limited
- Clann Credo
- Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership
- Future Ticketing
- HBV Studios
- Camden Clothing
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Blanchardstown

Garda Vetting

The Federation of Irish Sports provides a vetting service for thirty-four affiliated organisations. We had a total of 1,210 vetting applications processed in 2024

Board Recruitment Services

The provision of a board recruitment service by the Federation is supported by Sport Ireland. The service, which launched in December 2020, actively recruits independent directors to a Federation managed database from which sporting bodies can then select suitable candidates for vacant positions. There are currently forty-one director candidates on the database with expertise in Finance, Legal, Governance, Communications, HR and Commercial etc. FIS manage this database to assist both National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships in bringing expertise, independence, and diversity to their boards and meet their board and subcommittee needs.

Governance Code

The Federation registered their compliance with Sport Ireland's Code of Governance for Sport during December 2021 as a type C organisation and will continue to commit to being compliant on an ongoing basis.

Statement on Relevant Audit Information

In accordance with section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the statutory auditors are unaware. The directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and they have established that the statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Compliance Statement

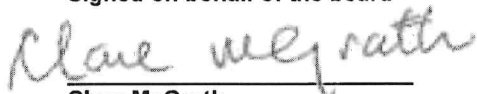
The directors are responsible for securing the company's compliance with its relevant obligations (compliance with both company and tax law) and with respect to each of the following three items, we confirm that it has/has not been done. We confirm:"

- the existence of a compliance policy statement;
- appropriate arrangements or structures put in place to secure material compliance with the company's relevant obligations;
- a review of such arrangements and structures has taken place during the financial year

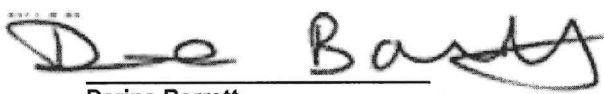
Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Signed on behalf of the board



Clare McGrath
Director



Darina Barrett
Director

Date: 27th March 2025

Date: 27th March 2025

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

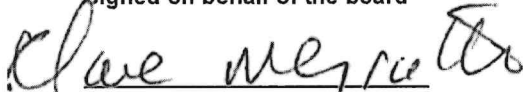
Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard, issued by the Financial Reporting Council. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

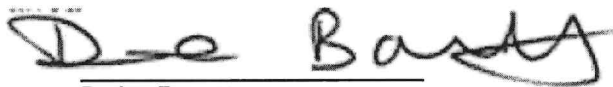
The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be readily and properly audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the board



Clare McGrath
Director

Date: 27th March 2025



Darina Barrett
Director

Date: 27th March 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee ('the company') for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Financial Position and the related notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council, applying Section 1A of that Standard.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2024 and of its loss for the financial year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the Members of Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 7, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located at page 10, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Sean Whelan FCA
for and on behalf of

WHELAN DOWLING & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm

Block 1, Unit 1 & 4,

Northwood Court,

Santry

D09E438

Date: 27th March 2025

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

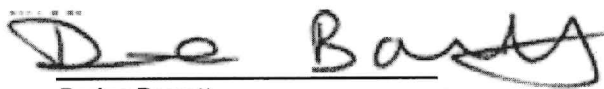
Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
INCOME STATEMENT
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Turnover		446,086	419,358
Gross profit		446,086	419,358
Administrative expenses		(451,708)	(412,968)
Operating (loss)/profit		(5,622)	6,390
Interest receivable and similar income		84	-
(Loss)/Profit before taxation		(5,538)	6,390
Tax on (loss)/profit		-	-
(Loss)/Profit for the financial year		(5,538)	6,390

Approved by the board on 27th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Clare McGrath
Director



Darina Barrett
Director

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as at 31 December 2024

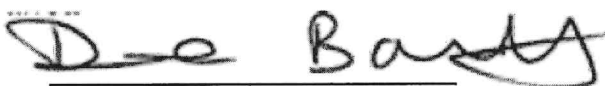
	Notes	2024 €	2023 €
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	29,313	28,049
Cash and cash equivalents		209,154	186,816
		<u>238,467</u>	<u>214,865</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(129,762)</u>	<u>(100,622)</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>108,705</u>	<u>114,243</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>108,705</u>	<u>114,243</u>
Reserves			
Retained earnings		108,705	114,243
Members' Funds		<u>108,705</u>	<u>114,243</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", applying Section 1A of that Standard.

Approved by the board on 27th March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Clare McGrath
Director



Darina Barrett
Director

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

1. General Information

The income and expenditure account, the statement of financial position and the related notes constitute the financial statements of Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee for the financial year ended 31st December 2024.

Irish Sports Matters CLG having no share capital, incorporated and registered in the Republic of Ireland (CRO number: 643966). The registered office is at Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, which is also the principal place of business of the company. The nature of the company's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Directors' report.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A (Small Entities) and the Companies Act 2014.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a small company as defined by section 280A of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Small Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280C of the Companies Act 2014 and Section 1A of FRS 102.

Income

All income is accounted for on an accruals basis. Income comprises of various fees receivable by the federation to include income from membership fees as well as government grant funding and other operating income comprising sponsorship funding.

Government grants

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to profit or loss at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the same period as the related expenditure.

Whelan Dowling & Associates confirm that the Sport Ireland grants received during the year were expended for the purposes for which they were intended.

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Property, plant and equipment and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the following methods:

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 15% Straight line
Computer equipment	- 33% Straight line

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Trade and other debtors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Trade and other creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Taxation

Irish Sports Matters CLG T/A The Federation of Irish Sport is exempt from Corporation Tax in Ireland. The company is fully tax compliant.

Foreign currencies

The company's functional and presentational currency is Euro.

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Nonmonetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at period-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in profit or loss except when deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges.

Foreign exchange gains and losses that relate to borrowings and cash and cash equivalents are presented in the income and expenditure account within 'finance income or costs'. All other foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the income and expenditure account within 'other operating income'.

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

3. Significant accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application and policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historic experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The directors consider the accounting estimates and assumptions below to be its critical accounting estimates and judgements.

4. Going concern

The directors have prepared budgets and cash flows for a period of at least twelve months from the date of the approval of the financial statements which demonstrate that there is no material uncertainty regarding the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and to continue as a going concern. On this basis the directors consider it appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis. Accordingly, these financial statements do not include any adjustments to the carrying amounts and classification of assets and liabilities that may arise if the company was unable to continue as a going concern.

5. Sport Ireland Grants

Sport Ireland - Core Funding Grant (Received in 2024 - €135,000)

This grant contributed towards enhancing the operational capacity of members through support services such as Garda Vetting, Board recruitment services etc and the continuation of the Federation's representation function. €10,000 of this grant was carried forward from 2023 and along with an additional amount received during the year of €135,000 is included in the Income and Expenditure account in 2024. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Sport Ireland - COVID Resilience Grant (Received in 2024 - €Nil)

This grant contributes towards the sustainability of three Federation of Irish Sport members resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. €20,058 of this grant was carried forward from 2023 and expended in full during 2024 and is included in the Income and Expenditure account. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Sport Ireland - Special Project Funding Grant (Received in 2024 - €20,000)

This grant contributes towards special projects of The Federation of Irish Sport. €5,531 of this grant was carried forward from 2023 and along with an additional amount received during the year of €20,000 was expended in full and is included in the Income and Expenditure account. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Sport Ireland - Volunteer in Sport Research Grant (Received in 2024 - €Nil)

This grant contributed towards expenditure incurred by the Company in conducting research on succession planning on volunteerism in sport in Ireland. €14,824 of this grant was carried forward from 2023. €7,412 was expended in 2024 and has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024. The remaining €7,412 was deferred into 2025 as highlighted in Note 5.1 within the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Sport Ireland: Women in Sport Grant (Received in 2024 - €30,000)

This grant contributed towards expenditure incurred by the Company in promoting women's participation in sport. €17,700 of this grant was carried forward from 2023 and €30,000 was received during 2024. €14,000 was expended in 2024 and has been included in the Income and Expenditure Account of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2024. The remaining €33,700 was deferred into 2025 as highlighted in Note 5.1 within the financial statements. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Sport Ireland – Athlete Support Manager (Received in 2024 - €18,000)

This grant contributed towards the recruitment and operational costs of an Athlete Support Manager to provide support to Irish athletes. All €18,000 of the grant is included in the Income and Expenditure account in 2024. The Sport Ireland grant is sponsored by the Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

5.1 Sport Ireland Deferred Grants

	2024 €	2023 €
Sport Ireland COVID Resilience Grant		
Grant received during the year	-	-
Unspent grant brought forward	20,058	30,000
Grant expenditure during the year	(20,058)	(9,942)
Grant deferred	-	20,058
	2024 €	2023 €
Sport Ireland Volunteer in Sport Research Grant		
Grant received during the year	-	14,824
Unspent grant brought forward	14,824	-
Grant expenditure during the year	(7,412)	-
Grant deferred	7,412	14,824
	2024 €	2023 €
Sport Ireland Strategic Plan		
Grant received during the year	-	-
Unspent grant brought forward	-	6,000
Grant expenditure during the year	-	(6,000)
Grant deferred	-	-
	2024 €	2023 €
Sport Ireland Special Project Grant		
Grant received during the year	20,000	50,000
Unspent grant brought forward	5,531	-
Grant expenditure during the year	(25,531)	(44,469)
Grant deferred	-	5,531
	2024 €	2023 €
Sport Ireland - Core Grant		
Grant received during the year	135,000	135,000
Unspent grant brought forward	10,000	-
Grant expenditure during the year	(145,000)	(125,000)
Grant deferred	-	10,000
	2024 €	2023 €
Sport Ireland - Women in Sport Grant		
Grant received during the year	30,000	30,000
Unspent grant brought forward	17,700	-
Grant expenditure during the year	(14,000)	(12,300)
Grant deferred	33,700	17,700
	2024 €	2023 €
Total of all Sport Ireland deferred grants at year end (note 10)	41,112	68,113

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

6. Employees

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was 4, (2023 - 4).

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Administrators	2	2
CEO	1	1
Support Services Officer	1	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

7. Employee benefits

Number of employees whose benefits (excluding pension) are €60,000 or greater:

Salary Band	Number of Employees	2023
€80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

8. Property, plant and equipment

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Computer equipment €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 January 2024	<u>2,655</u>	<u>6,592</u>	<u>9,247</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>2,655</u>	<u>6,592</u>	<u>9,247</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 January 2024	<u>2,655</u>	<u>6,592</u>	<u>9,247</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>2,655</u>	<u>6,592</u>	<u>9,247</u>
Net book value			
At 31 December 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

9. Debtors

	2024 €	2023 €
Trade debtors	16,116	19,653
Taxation	2,466	1,851
Prepayments	10,731	6,545
	<u>29,313</u>	<u>28,049</u>

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

10. Creditors	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year	€	€
Amounts owed to credit institutions	3,617	3,774
Trade creditors	32,601	761
Taxation	7,078	-
Other creditors	41,112	68,113
Accruals	10,824	4,599
Deferred Income	34,530	23,375
	<u>129,762</u>	<u>100,622</u>

11. Financial Instruments

The company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

12. Status

The company is limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding €1.27 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

13. Capital commitments

The company had no material capital commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2024.

14. Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities at the year end.

15. Related party transactions

Just Sport Ireland ("JSI") is a company limited by guarantee without a share capital and was incorporated in October 2007.

JSI is a specialised dispute resolution mechanism for Irish Sport offering both a mediation and arbitration facility. The company was established by the Federation of Irish Sport in response to the increasing prevalence of sporting litigation.

JSI has no financial commitments and continues to receive financial support from Irish Sports Matters CLG to fund its activities (2024 : €6,223 2023 : €5,555).

16. Events After the End of the Reporting Period

There have been no significant events between the balance sheet date and the signing of these financial statements affecting the company, which would require an adjustment to or a disclosure in the financial statements.

17. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 27th March 2025.

IRISH SPORTS MATTERS COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TRADING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Schedule	2024 €	2023 €
Income		<u>446,086</u>	<u>419,358</u>
Overhead expenses	1	<u>(451,708)</u>	<u>(412,968)</u>
		(5,622)	6,390
Miscellaneous income	2	<u>84</u>	<u>-</u>
Net (deficit)/surplus		<u><u>(5,538)</u></u>	<u><u>6,390</u></u>

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE 1 : OVERHEAD EXPENSES

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Administration Expenses		
Wages and salaries	214,412	174,223
Social welfare costs	22,938	19,237
Staff expenses	3,966	2,335
Maternity cover consultancy	-	12,119
Staff training	410	-
Sports business awards	18,033	19,962
Sports matters campaign	17,871	21,677
SDSI expenditure	-	10,000
Volunteers in sport expenditure	30,287	38,094
SDSI costs	6,223	5,555
Special projects costs	23,431	44,469
Women in sport expenditure	14,000	12,300
CEO Network	1,862	4,176
Athlete Support Manager salary and expenses	15,593	-
Research grant expenditure	7,412	-
Rent payable	4,678	4,536
Water charges	120	120
Insurance	5,307	4,814
Light and heat	363	333
Printing, postage and stationery	437	531
Telephone Broadband	2,299	1,968
Computer costs	9,656	6,856
Executive committee expenses	-	744
Board training	15,000	-
AGM	258	301
Legal and professional	4,473	4,485
Accountancy Fees	7,870	8,180
Bank charges	364	546
Doubtful debts	4,000	-
Miscellaneous expenses	311	2,555
Subscriptions	15,409	9,777
Auditor's remuneration	4,725	3,075
	451,708	412,968

Irish Sports Matters Company Limited by Guarantee

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SCHEDULE 2 : MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 €	2023 €
Miscellaneous Income		
Bank Interest	<u>84</u>	<u>-</u>



AGM 2025

Federation of Irish Sport Activities Report

Table of Contents



1. Overview.....	5
2. FIS Strategic Plan 2024.....	5
3. Advocacy and Public Affairs.....	9
4. Budget 2025.....	10
5. Sport Ireland.....	11
6. Partners.....	11
7. Events.....	12
8. Board Recruitment Service.....	17
9. Sport Dispute Solutions Service.....	17
10. Athlete Support Manager.....	17
11. Research.....	18
12. Garda Vetting.....	18
13. Governance Code.....	18

Highlights of activity conducted by the company over the year 2024.



Dear Member

As we approach the Federation's Annual General Meeting, I am writing to you all to give an overview of the work completed during a busy year for the Federation and for the sport and physical activity sector.

The Federation has 81 National Governing Bodies of Sport and 29 Local Sport Partnerships as full members and welcomed Sporting Pride as an associate member in 2024. The Federation's vision is that sport is recognised and prized as being integral to health, education, and the economy; and is a key factor in creating an inclusive Irish society. I want to thank all our members for the work they do through their professional and volunteer network to make that vision a reality throughout Ireland.

As you will see from the more detailed report that follows these few words it has been a very busy year for the Federation as we continue to work on many fronts on your behalf.

In 2024 as in other years the Federation works on behalf of our members to be their sporting voice in both public and political spheres. We do this through a variety of activities including member briefing events, award ceremonies, annual conferences, and ministerial visits. In addition, we champion our members voice on committees and sporting groups including the National Sports Policy Sports Leadership Group, Chairing the Healthy Ireland Cities & Counties Committee, National Physical Activity plan committee, The Alliance for Insurance Reform Board and Member of Sport Ireland - Respect the Officials Working Group.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the Federation throughout 2024. We endeavour to ensure that your efforts to provide sport and physical activity opportunities for all are supported by all key stakeholders and that strong representation is made on your behalf.

This report provides a summary of the work completed throughout 2024.

Mary O'Connor
Chief Executive Officer.



1. Overview

In the year since our last AGM, the Federation has completed a comprehensive programme of work focusing on both our lobbying efforts and on our member supports and events work. Some of the many activities you will have seen include our Volunteers in Sport Awards, The Sport Industry Awards, our pre- budget submission, Project work on Taxation Reform, (Action 3.7 National Sports Policy), Advocacy on Multi Annual Funding and the continued and necessary work on engaging government regarding the delivery of the National Sports policy action plan 2024 – 2027.



2. FIS Strategic Plan

2024 was the first year of the FIS Strategic plan 2024 – 2029 the Federation began the process of developing the new strategic plan in 2023 following consultation with the sector.

The Federation of Irish Sport Strategy 2024 – 2029 comes at an important time for Irish society and the sport, recreation, and physical activity sector.

The Federation's three main pillars are as follows:



We have a lot of work to do to ensure the goals of our strategic plan will be achieved and to the forefront of our representation, advocacy and service provision will be to provide our members with strong leadership, honesty, and integrity.





Federation of Irish Sport Strategic Plan Summarised Progress Report Year 1 – 2024

Strategic Theme: Effective & Impactful Member Supports



Goals:

- 1. To ensure that members have access to high quality services in line with their needs, when they need them.**
 - 2. To deliver significant added value for members and build a strong and supportive environment for members.**
-


Key Achievements:


-  Increase in member engagement across core support services.
 -  75 people completed board readiness training.
 - Board Recruitment services utilised by 20 NGBs.
 -  New surveys on insurance/budget provision and governance.
 -  Garda Vetting Service represents an increase of 10% in 2024 on 2023 figures.
 - SDSI Service - 8 arbitration cases and 3 mediations cases. New strategic plan created, and new rules approved.
 - Regular communications to members via newsletter and CEO Updates.
-


Challenges:


-  Limited resources for scaling high-demand services such as shared services for example HR.
 -  Need for Multi – annual funding for long-term sustainable outputs.
 - Limited budget to build in repository, resources and guidelines on a dedicated tab on FIS website.
-


Status Summary:

 **Collaborative Partnerships:** Strategic collaborations with external organisations have enhanced the range and quality of services offered to members.

 **Feedback Loops:** Active member feedback channels (surveys, listening sessions) are influencing program design, though follow-up transparency could be strengthened.

 **Community Engagement:** Increased participation in forums, workshops, and member-led events suggests growing peer-to-peer support and a sense of community.

 **Tailored Service Offerings:** Requirement for more needs assessments and member surveys to have more personalised service options, increasing overall satisfaction.

 **Identified Gaps:** There is still room to expand niche support offerings, particularly for underrepresented member groups.

Strategic Theme: Purposeful Advocacy and Leadership

Goals

1. Amplify Member Voices & Strengthen Leadership

2. Drive meaningful change through advocacy and leadership development.

Key Achievements

3 Advocacy Campaigns

- Taxation Reform
- Multi annual Funding
- Gambling Regulation Bill
- Oireachtas Inclusion in Sport report published Feb 2024.

Advocacy representation

- Local, European and General elections representation and inclusion of sport and physical activity in Manifestos
- Pre – Budget Submission 2025
- Submission on Programme for Government
- National Philanthropy policy committee representation

Strategic Partnerships

- Strengthened ties with government and sector organisations.

Strategic Events

- Successful delivery of public and government facing events
 - Volunteer in Sport Awards
 - Irish Sport Industry Awards
 - Annual Leaders forum
 - Member webinar, workshop and Lunch and learn
-

Challenges

Advocacy Momentum

Sustaining engagement in long-term campaigns.

Policy Uncertainty

National Sports policy ends in 2027, need for commitment to the development of a new NSP.

Next Steps


Digital Tools


Expand online advocacy platforms for sustained member engagement.


Impact Tracking


Monitor policy impacts and adjust strategies accordingly.

Status Summary

 **Advocacy Impact:** Policy submissions, campaigns, and coalition work have led to tangible policy wins and raised awareness of member priorities at multiple levels of decision-making.

 **Strategic Policy Engagement:** Advocacy efforts are increasingly data-driven and aligned with member-defined priorities, enhancing credibility and effectiveness.

 **Stakeholder Relationships:** Strengthened collaborations with government bodies, NGOs, and media have extended the reach and influence of member advocacy.

 **Challenges Identified:** Sustaining long-term advocacy campaigns requires continued investment in resources, coordination, and leadership support structures.

Strategic Theme: A Resilient & Sustainable Organisation

Goal

1. Build an Organisation that is Resilient, Adaptable, and Sustainable
 2. Ensure long-term success by strengthening operations, sustainability, and employee well-being.
-

Key Achievements

- Organisational Health
- Governance code compliance maintained
- Succession planning in place for board directors
- Active and effective Finance Audit and Risk, Governance, Commercial and Communication, HR and nomination committees

Enhance Profile

LinkedIn Facebook, newsletter. All have increased in subscribers. Commercial and communications committee input/expertise. Enhanced capability with MediaHQ subscription.

Financial Health

- AGM 2024 approved a 5% increase in fee for 2025 and another 5% increase in 2026.
- Developed a focused commercial plan targeting new corporate income opportunities and partners.

Staff Well being

- Hybrid working model introduced underpinned by policy.
 - Recruitment of HP Athlete Support Manager (ASM) to cement FIS place as a systems partner in Irish Sport.
-

⚠ Challenges

🔄 Resource Allocation

Balancing day-to-day needs with strategic goals

💻 Technological Gaps

📌 Status Summary

🏢 Organisational Resilience

Strengthened: Risk management frameworks have been updated, including business continuity plans.

✅ **Financial Health:** Budget forecasts and reserves indicate stability, with diversified funding streams supporting resilience; however, ongoing dependency on a few major funders presents a long-term risk.

3. Advocacy and Public Affairs

The Federation have made representation to Government on the following topics in 2024.

- Pre- budget Submission

Link to full submission: [FIS Pre Budget Submission 2025](#)

Covering the following topics

- NGB/LSP Core funding
- Multi Annual funding
- Taxation reform
- NGB/LSP Staffing
- Governance requirements and support required
- Philanthropy
- Insurance Reform

Elections 2024

- Local Elections
- Briefing note: Local Elections 2024
- European Elections
- Briefing for members on 2024 European Parliament Elections
- General Election
- Federation of Irish Sport Manifesto Asks General Election 2024
- Programme for Government
- Federation of Irish Sport Submission - Programme for Government

Our Ways of Working

Member Informed

We will listen to the views of members and respond efficiently and effectively to ensure a supportive environment

Passionate

We believe in the power of sport and physical activity and its contribution to Irish society, this belief will underpin everything we do

Positive Disruptor

Leadership comes in different forms, we will robustly and constructively challenge and hold to account those with responsibility for developing and delivering against key sport and physical activity priorities

Independent

We will retain our independence, ensuring we can provide effective support and that we can adequately represent the views of all of our members

Stronger Together

We believe that the sport and physical activity sector is stronger together and, working collectively, can be a powerful vehicle for change

Honest & Transparent

We will communicate effectively to share information on our work and our achievements, we will hold ourselves to the highest standard of service and support for our members



4. Budget 2025

The Federation put forward three key “Asks” of the government for Budget 2025, with the primary request being for a multi-annual increase in core funding for NGBs and LSPs. Core funding is the heart sporting bodies in Ireland, enabling the creation of programmes and pathways that identify, nurture, and support the sporting heroes of tomorrow. Additional calls for taxation reform and an increase in the betting levy comprised the two other key Asks.

The outcome saw the **Government provide a 4% increase in Core funding.**

In short

- **Budget allocation to Sport Ireland for 2025 is €115.16 million**
- **Core funding allocation of €30 million sees increase of €1.3m (4%) across all NGBs and LSPs**
- **High Performance Sport allocated an additional €1.2 million.**
- **A dedicated Disability in Sport funding stream allocated €1 million.**

As stated in the Federation’s Pre Budget-Submission “Core Funding is used to strengthen the core of an organisation, not just maintain it.” Core funding allows NGBs and LSPs recruit additional staff and retain existing staff, run programmes, and develop coaching to meet the growing demands and reduce barriers to entry into sport.

Core funding budgets have come under increasing pressure to deliver on regulatory requirements including pensions auto enrolment, governance compliance and reporting. There is a growing pressure point for our member organisations to retain staff and find sufficient resources to recruit much needed members of staff to activate programmes to grow participation.

The federation asks of Multi annual funding for the sector was achieved after a number of years representation on the matter and will be actioned in 2026.

The biggest success of Budget 2025 was Taxation Reform, making good on the commitment in 2023 Budget speech, Minister Jack Chambers announced measures to support national sporting bodies in planning and investing for the future. Changes were made to the tax exemptions that apply to those bodies to facilitate long term investments for the purposes of future capital projects, sport equipment needs, to support Ireland’s high-performance athletes, and sports participation.

Furthermore, The Finance Act 2024 now allows those making donations to sports bodies, for capital projects, and the other objectives, greater flexibility on how those donations will be treated for Income Tax purposes.

This was a number of years work in collaboration with Bryan Hughes and Paul Fahy of A&L Goodbody and will be hugely beneficial to the sector in the future.

5. Sport Ireland

The Federation of Irish Sport are grateful for the support of Sport Ireland through core funding and support for special projects and provision of services on Irish Sport HQ campus.

6. Partners

The Federation continues to monitor and review the needs of our members and align carefully with partners who can add value to their membership.

The Federation looks forward to continuing to work closely with all our valued partners, and we would also like to thank our partners and suppliers for 2024, namely;

- Marsh Insurance
- Ogier Solicitors
- HBV Studios
- OSK Accountants and Business Auditors
- Future Ticketing
- Clann Credo
- Camden Promotions
- 2into3
- Dublin City Sport and Wellbeing Partnership
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Blanchardstown

Partners



Preferred Suppliers



7. Events

Annual Leaders Forum

Hosted on January 31st, the event was well attended by over eighty members and partners at the National Sport Campus Conference centre. The line-up of speakers reflected key topics relevant to the sector in 2024 namely the Pensions Auto-enrolment and the launch of the National Philanthropy Policy (2024-2028).

Assistant Sec. General from the Department of Social Protection Tim Duggan presented on Pension Auto-enrolment – “What it means for the Sports sector employers and employees”

James Lavelle Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media presented an update on the National Sports Policy Plan 2018-2027
Éilis Murray CEO Philanthropy Ireland presented on the National Philanthropy Policy 2024-2028.





Welcome

ANNUAL LEADERS FORUM

2024

*'Future - proofing Irish Sport through
Policy, Partnership and Collaboration'*

Wednesday 31st January 2024, 10.30am-1:15pm
Campus Conference Centre
National Sports Campus

Volunteers in Sport Awards 2023.

The Volunteers in Sport Awards were hosted on the 29th of February in the Crowne Plaza with an attendance of two hundred guests.

The Federation of Irish Sport recognised recipients of the 2023 Volunteers in Sports Awards, celebrating their dedication and giving freely of their time locally to make sport happen. Proudly supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships, the committed volunteers from all across the country were honoured at an awards ceremony with special guest speaker Minister Thomas Byrne, Minister of State with responsibility for Sport and Physical Education presenting the 32 county awards.

The vital role of volunteers in advancing sports participation and community development cannot be underestimated or taken for granted. The economic significance of volunteering has an estimated value of €1.5 billion annually to the Irish economy. This figure underscores the immense social and economic benefits derived from the invaluable contributions of volunteers across the Irish sporting landscape.

National TV coverage was also secured on the RTÉ 6.1 News.



The 2024 Irish Sport Industry Awards Reward Excellence in Sport and were once again hosted in the College Green Hotel with over 180 guests in attendance. The highlight was the keynote speaker Minister for Finance Michael McGrath TD.

There were 11 awards presented, 8 were decided by the adjudication panel and there were 3 closed categories for individual contributions (Women in Business in Sport, Media coverage, Legacy). The budget for the event comprised of category sponsorship fees from KPMG, Digital Skillnet and Sport Ireland. There was a record number of entries to the awards this year with over 100 submissions for the open categories.. There was a strong media campaign for the awards, from the official launch through to post-event award interviews with winners. LinkedIn is the top platform driving traffic to the ISIA's website. The winner's video interviews gained on average 3.5k impressions each and total organic impressions over 3 months on the platform were 117,101. Over 500 new followers were gained over the same period.

Irish Sport Industry Awards 2024.



2024 Awards Winners:

Best Sports Sponsorship

Olympic Federation of Ireland & PTSB, Dare to Believe

Best Use of Communications Platforms in Sport

FAI, FAI Connect

Best New Sports Business of the Year, in partnership with Sport Ireland

Precision Sports Technology

Best Sports Business of the Year, in partnership with Technology Ireland DIGITAL Skillnet

SportsKey

Best Initiative to Promote Women in Sport & Physical Activity

LGFA Sports Direct G4MAO (Gaelic4Mothers&Others)

Best Initiative to Promote Inclusivity in Sport & Physical Activity

Field Of Vision

Local Sports Partnership of the Year

Clare Local Sports Partnership

Governing Body of the Year

Canoeing Ireland

Jimmy Magee FIS/ASJI Sports Coverage of the Year

Mark Gallagher

Women in Business in Sport Award, in partnership with KPMG

Sarah Keane

Outstanding Contribution to Irish Sport Award

John Trainor



Online Member Event, presented by OSK & 2into3.

On 16th April partners OSK and 2into3 co-hosted a member event organised by FIS giving their expert insights on “How to Maximise Your Organisations Funding Potential to Create Further Impact”. The topics covered grant applications from a national and local level, emerging issues, strategic philanthropy, fundraising and the accounting treatment of grant awards. The event was very well supported had 47 attendees online.



Speakers



Patricia Keenan
2into3



Rob Foley
2into3



Deirdre McDermott
OSK

8. Board Recruitment Service

The provision of a board recruitment service by the Federation is supported by Sport Ireland. The service, which launched in December 2020, actively recruits independent directors to a Federation-managed database from which sporting bodies can then select suitable candidates for vacant positions.

There are currently 41 candidates on the database with expertise in Finance, Legal, Governance, Communications, HR and Commercial etc. FIS manages this project and works to assist both National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships in bringing expertise, independence, and diversity to their boards and meet their board and subcommittee needs. In 2024 20 member organizations used this service and the feedback has been very positive.

Board recruitment training in 2024 saw a total of 75 candidates complete this.

9. Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland

The Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI) service continued to run effectively with a total of 10 cases being heard by Mediation and or Arbitration. A new registrar was appointed in April 2023 and has worked closely with the Secretariat on work to date.

10. Athlete Support Manager

Rachael Mulligan was appointed to the role of Athlete Support Manager (ASM) and began working with the Federation in October 2024. Rachael is qualified with a BSc. Sport Science & Health and is currently completing doctoral research examining conflict in HP sport.

The ASM's role is to provide support to all carded athletes operating on funded Olympic and Paralympic High-Performance Programmes (HPP).

The ASM will support the interests of athletes by providing them with independent, confidential, and expert advice in the areas of integrity and wellbeing, working within the relevant processes of the sport National Governing Body (NGB).

In addition, the ASM is supported by an oversight committee representing the stakeholders of the HPPs: the Sport Ireland Institute; the athlete commissions of the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland; and HPP performance directors.



11. Research

The Federation of Irish Sport collaborated with Dr Anne O' Brien and Maynooth University on the research question 'why journalists and media producers create gendered sports content in the ways that they do.'

The intersection of gender and sports has been a battleground for decades, not only in the arenas and fields where athletes compete but also in the media that shapes our understanding and perception of these sports. While the world of sports has long been dominated by male athletes, the portrayal of women in sports media has often been relegated to the margins, framed through stereotypes, and undersold in terms of talent and achievement.

This work, entitled 'Gender Equality in Media representation of Sport in Ireland which explores the complexities and challenges of gender content creation in sports media, is an important step in understanding the forces at play and envisioning a more inclusive and equitable future. It reminds us that the fight for gender equality in sports is not just about advocating for women to be seen and heard; the key discoveries of the research are about shifting the broader cultural framework and understanding that we all have our part to play if we are to tackle the challenges!

I would like to thank Dr O' Brien for her dedication and expertise in producing this report and also to thank all the journalists and editors who participated in interviews and provided information. This work could not have been undertaken without the support of Sport Ireland and the research grant scheme, our sincere thanks for their financial support.

Link to full report: [Gender-Sport-Media-Report.](#)

12. Garda Vetting

In 2024 the Federation processed 1210 vetting applications for 34 member organisations.

13. Governance Code

The Federation is on the Governance Code registered their compliance with Sport Ireland in December 2021 as a type C organisation and will continue the commitment to being compliant on an ongoing basis.



Federation of Irish Sport



**Mary O Connor,
CEO**



**Clare Louise O Donoghue,
Head of Commercial & Marketing**



**Michelle Mc Carthy,
Operations Manager**



**Alison Deane,
Member Services Executive**



**Rachael Mulligan,
Athlete Support Manager**

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